Rothbury Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1903.

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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1903.

Rothbury, January 25th, 1904.

To the Rothbury Rural District Council.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

Permit me to beg your acceptance of this my Eighth Annual Report to the Council, and my Twenty-seventh to the Rural Sanitary Authority, it being for the year ending December 31st, 1903.

There were 133 births registered, being an increase of 34 upon the number of last year, and a good deal above your average of 110. This is at a rate of 27·82, being just above that for the rural populations of England and Wales of 28·4. Of this number 72 were males, and 61 females. They were registered as follows, during the first quarter 35, the second 40, the third 30, and the last, 28. There was a slight diminution in Brinkburn part, but perceptible increases in all the others.

There were 69 deaths in all registered during the year, being at a rate of 14·4, but 4 of these did not belong to the district, which gave a rate of only 13·60 for the residential population, being below your average of 14·6, and is very satisfactory. The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 15·4. Of the residential 65, there were 43 males, and 22 females. These occurred, during January, 10; February, 4; March, 4; April, 2; May, 7; June, 5; July, 5; August, 2; September, 5; October, 9; November, 4; December, 8.

As there were 133 births, and only 65 deaths, it follows, that the difference of 68, were naturally added to the population, and this furnishes a rate of 14·22, being above the average for England and Wales which is 12·0 and also yours of 8·5.

There were 12 of the 133 infants born that died before they attained the age of one year, this gives an infantile death rate of 90·22 per 1,000 born, being a great improvement upon that for England and Wales of 118·0, and better than your average of 109·0; being also very satisfactory.

The different age periods at which these occurred were as follow: under one year, 12; one and under five, 3; five to fifteen, 2; fifteen and under twenty-five, 2; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 23; sixty-five and upwards, 23. Of these latter, ten were over 80 years of age (one being 88, and two 86); eight others were over 70 years of age, and five others over the 65 years of age.

There were only 4 deaths in the usual epidemic or zymotic class of disease, viz., that of an infant that died of diarrhœa, an adult of puerperal fever, and two of erysipelas. This is at the rate of 1·19, as against 1·08 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Other causes of death were as follows: *Influenza* 6, equally prevalent all over the Union, and more so than in late years, a good deal of the lung troubles being doubtless associated with it. *Enteritis* caused 3, one in an infant, and two in aged persons. *Phthisis* 5, being at a rate of 1·05, as against the average of 1·25 for the last 16 years. Other *Tubercular* diseases, both *Meningitis*, caused 2 deaths in children. *Cancer* caused one death. *Bronchitis* 3, *Pneumonia* 3, *Pleurisy* 0, being 6 for all other diseases of the chest than *Phthisis*, and at a rate of 1·25, being below the average of 2·0. *Premature* birth caused 2. *Debility* at the same 2. Accidents of parturition, 1. *Heart Disease* 13, as against the average of 9·5, the excess being largely due to the after effects of the Influenza upon a weak heart. *Apoplexy* caused 1, *Senile decay* 5. While causes other than the above, 13.

The deaths, in the different parts of the Union (being Ecclesiastical Parishes, or parts of them), occurred as follows, coupled with the death rate per 1,000, calculated upon its population.

	Deaths.	Rate.		Deaths.	Rate.
Rothbury (Rural part of Parish)	22	15·8	Alnham & Brinkburn,	5	14·0
Whittingham, ...	10	13·0	Cambo & Elsdon, ...	8	14·0
Lonframlington, ...	10	21·3	Longhorsley and Netherwitton, ...	4	10·8
Alwinton, ...	6	7·0			

As the rate for the whole Union was 13·60, all that exceeded it, must have helped to swell it. Thus, Longframlington is the heaviest, being 21·3, showing an improvement upon last

year however, when it was 27·08. It is not satisfactory, and needs (as it gets), a good deal of attention. Rothbury comes next, with 15·8. Alwinton has greatly improved, and has had a good deal of attention.

Accident caused the death of an infant, by the accidental falling down of a pot of boiling water which went over it. An inquest being held by the Coroner.

Of *Strangers*, there were 4 deaths. One of Consumption, who came into the district with it on him, and stayed till he died. Three others being Tramps, who worked at the Waterworks; one died of Bronchitis in the Workhouse, one of Convulsions and exposure on the Moor; the other by accident and falling on or near the railway line.

Inquests by the Coroner were held on these two latter; and the child mentioned above.

There were no proceedings before the magistrates, but overcrowding existed at the Waterworks, attention being drawn to it. This has now passed into the hands of the Tynemouth Corporation, from the Contractors, and better conditions are hoped for.

There were notified, 31 cases of Infectious disease during the year, their nature being as follows:—Small Pox 3, Erysipelas 10, Scarlet Fever 16, Puerperal Fever 2. Twenty-seven occurred in the Rothbury portion, 2 in Alwinton, and 1 each in Longframlington and Elsdon. Erysipelas caused 2 deaths, and Puerperal Fever 1.

Small Pox again broke out at the Waterworks (Ewesley). The workers here are largely a tramp class, and wander about all over the County, and further. Within three days, 3 distinct outbreaks occurred here, the first, Francis Riley, aged 34 years, took first ill on December 4th, coming from the Edinboro' Waterworks (Talla), where it had broken out. He had only been seven day's at the works here. He had two small marks of vaccination, and had been re-vaccinated nine days, but not having been the ten days required, it had not protected him. It was definitely ascertained that he had it on December 8th. He had been removed to an empty hut on the 7th. His lodgings (Hutton's hut) being disinfected, bedding, &c., burnt, and afterwards house and furniture washed with Carbolic Acid and Perchloride of Mercury. He lodged with 36 others and the family in the hut. These and the man in charge were all re-vaccinated by me, 46 in all, and later Mr. Hull vaccinated 26

more. On the 9th he was removed to the Isolation Hospital, which was now enabled to take him in. His hut was treated as above, the bedding burnt, and the man and his wife washed, disinfected, and new clothes given. Unfortunately she escaped un-vaccinated before our arrival next day to do it. She took the disease ten days afterwards. That day the Public Vaccinator, with the next day, in all re-vaccinated 83 more, making a total of 155. Your Inspector attended each of these times, and superintended the disinfection, &c., with assistance on the spot. He had a bad attack, but is well, waiting for the marks to get off his face and head before he can leave the Hospital.

Two days later, James McGuire took it, aged 21 years. He took ill on the same day that he arrived at the Works, viz., December 8th, having tramped in Northumberland, evidently caught it before he came. The rash was out on the 10th, and he was removed to the Hospital on the 11th. He had one good sized mark of vaccination, the size of a shilling piece. It was a very mild attack, and he left the Hospital on January 2nd, clothes and self being washed and thoroughly disinfected. He lodged in Ryan's hut; the bed was burnt; and hut, &c., disinfected with burning sulphur, &c. The same day, James McGraw, aged 34, was found to have it, and removed to the Hospital with him. He lodged in Hutton's hut, and had been five weeks at the Works. He had been three times unsuccessfully vaccinated, and had a rather bad attack, not being yet fit to discharge. His bed was burnt, and the hut again disinfected after notice upon the owner's agent, and under the Inspector's superintendence. He came from the Scotch side.

Unsanitary conditions here were pointed out, and notice served upon the Corporation to get them and the overcrowding removed. There was no place to isolate 80 contacts, so nothing could be done in that respect. Owing to the prompt and energetic measures taken by all your officials, it is a matter for great congratulation that not another case has occurred here, and a great triumph for re-vaccination and sanitation. I made several visits to the place, and kept myself in daily communication for three weeks. Your Inspector rendered most valuable aid, as did your Clerk, and Mr. Hull procured a horse for the Ambulance, and other valuable assistance. Things are being improved at the Works. As the Corporation of Tynemouth took over the entire works from the Contractor, about November 20th, it would be well if they were to isolate all new comers for ten days, before drafting into the huts. Also to vaccinate all they can. They should also

provide a small hospital, and an isolation ward, with a plentiful supply of disinfectants.

A tramp at the Workhouse was found to have it. As he had been at Butterknowes in your district, I visited the place, and vaccinated the contacts. Your Inspector burnt the bedding in the stable, ann disinfected the place. No more have taken it. This was on Dec. 19th.

A young man came to Nunnykirk on August 24th, he having been in a house at Newcastle where the disease was. I telegraphed him to get at once vaccinated; he came in to me, and was done. Nothing further occurred.

Erysipelas was returned in 10 persons, being the same number as last year. Nine of them were from 25 to 65 years of age, but one was aged 84 years, and died from its effects at Westfield House. A male aged 32 contracted it from a cut, and died from its effects at the Fallowlees, where it had previously occurred. It occurred in eight persons in the Rothbury Parish, and one each in Longframlington and Alwinton districts. It was principally on the face and arms, and often severe in type this year. It occurred during the months of January, February, May, August, September, November, and December. Unsanitary conditions existed at the Waterworks and High Trewhitt.

Scarlet Fever. In all there were notified 16 cases, without any deaths. Two were under 5 years of age, and two over 25 years. Fifteen occurred in the Rothbury portion, and one in Alwinton. They occurred, during January, 6; May, 3; June, 2; July, 3; August, 1; November, 1. The first case occurred at the Cragside Lakes Lodge on January 4th, being five weeks after a former case there. Isolation and disinfectants were used, and it did not spread around, but four more in the house took it. This was disinfected, and all kept from school, &c. At *Thropton*, it broke out in a child aged 7 years on January 7th, but could not be traced. Isolation and care with disinfectants were used, and it did not spread, house being disinfected. It spread from the town to the West Hills on May 15th; drainage needed here was provided. On June 4th it extended to Crag End, and June 18th to Snitter, there being 5 cases there in all, they were not sufficiently careful here, and had to be several times cautioned. Unsanitary conditions were rectified. House visitations were made by me, with instructions to isolate and disinfect, the same to be carried out after recovery. At *Biddlestone,* on November 18th, a girl aged 5

years took it. She had just returned from a visit in Otterburn district, and was believed to have caught it during this. A child in another house had it while away, but was believed to be quite free of all infection. Instructions and disinfectants were given, and your Inspector afterwards disinfected the room. No further cases have occurred.

Influenza was rather prevalent throughout the year, and all over the Union.

Diarrhœa was not prevalent, but an infant died of it at the Waterworks. Owing to Mumps and Measles, the Whittingham School had to be closed in May, and disinfected.

Puerperal Fever caused the death of a woman at Thropton, after miscarriage. Influenza existed in the house previously, and may have had something to do with its occurrence. A case also occurred at Cottonshope but she recovered.

The following Sanitary improvements have been effected: At *Whitton Tower*, the coachman's cottage has been provided with a properly constructed privy and ash-midden. At the *Glebe Farm* improvements to house and steading. *Butterknowes*, proper sinks and spouting for the farm house and outbuildings. Drain relaid, but would have been better if further in sanitary pipes. *Brockley Hall*, drained round back of house, to carry away the damp. *Brinkburn*, a cottage has been very greatly improved, raised a storey, and almost new inside, with sanitary and other conveniences. *Healy Cote*, a sanitary sink and drain. Bull Bush, sinks and drains provided, and bad out offices removed and rebuilt at a proper distance from the dwellings. *Crag Head*, drainage provided, but outlet needs extension. *Debdon*, sinks and drainage and steading renovated. *Low Town*, proper sanitary sink. *Thropton*, new house for Tully built, and provided with all sanitary requirements. Elliott's house is being greatly improved. Sanitary sink and drain provided at J. Clark's. *Wolvershields*, the farm house practically rebuilt, and all requirements. *Low Trewhitt*, 2 new cottages built with all sanitary arrangements. At *Snitter*, sanitary improvements at Arris and Simpson's houses. A very extensive, good, and abundant water supply, has been laid on from Springs near Cartington Blue Mill to Snitter, and is extending to Windyside, Silverside, Chirnell's, High Trewhitt, Trewhitt Hall, and Trewhitt Steads. This is being done by Lord Armstrong, and will remove long standing grievances at the want of wholesome water, at all these places, and is a most valuable and extensive sanitary improvement. At *Alwinton*, a

new water supply has been laid to the farm house (Mr. Weddell's). At *Elsdon*, a roadside trough supply was shown to be contaminated, and ordered to be discontinued. *Farnham* farm house (Mr. Brewis), sanitary improvements were made; the same at *Yardhope*, and *Park House*. *Burradon*, three cottages have been supplied with proper sanitary sinks and drains. *Caistron*, improvements have been effected at the farm house and steading. *Elilaw*, hinds' cottages rebuilt and great improvements.

The following still require attention :—

High Trewhitt, more drainage; *High Farnham*, the same. *Harbottle Crag*, sanitary arrangements; *Clennel Street* also. *The Peels*, properly constructed ash-middens, and 2 more privies. *Caistron* cottages, sanitary sinks and drains. *Little Tosson*, much sanitary attention. *Thropton*, a proper ash-depôt, to stop the placing of ashes, refuse, &c., on the banks of the Wreigh stream and into it. *East Raw* requires the drainage carried further away from the roadside, &c. Special inspections were made with your Inspector of the Font River Waterworks, Alnham, and Screnwood, and Longframlington.

At the Waterworks, overcrowding still existed. There was need of more sinks, out-offices, and wash-houses. More houses are about to be built. The sewer outlet needs attention. The roads are getting this. Refuse is being carted away daily, and chloride of lime used. Some houses require ceiling.

At *Alnham*, 4 ash-middens were emptied after notice. Several of the surface wells required better protection. Drainage was turned away from one water supply. Pennilaw Farm Cottage needs sanitary arrangements. West Harbottle needs sanitary sink. Screnwood, G. Pringle's cottage needs sink and drain, same for rain down spouts.

Longframlington. Six ash-middens, &c., were emptied after notice. There were three new houses built since the last inspection, with out offices, &c. The sewer needs careful enquiry as to levels, &c., flushing apparatus, and ventilation other than the man-holes on the footways, &c. Proper drainage has been laid for Elliott's and Mole's properties and ash-midden covered in. The Manse house put in proper repair with sanitary requirements. W.C.'s to Hilton's, Miss Grey's, and Bell's, instend of privies. Drain to Tait's. Stable floor cemented, with drainage provided at H. Bell's Inn, with out offices. Ash-middens covered in at Mr. Appleby's and Dr. Fenwick's. Six new out-offices provided at Ladysmith.

There are still needing, spouting at Mrs. Young's and Turnbull's, Jos. Anderson's, sink, drainage, and sanitary requirements for James Rice. The same for the Onstead, and James Gladstone.

The water supply seems plentiful and is good. There is not so much waste now at the field taps.

Your Inspector has attended to most of all the above, having in hand those not yet complied with. The Isolation Hospital has been used for the small-pox patients, when the new additions for the housekeeping to be carried on in, were greatly appreciated. The old part was used as before for the patients and nurse. The disinfecting chamber and ambulance have been of great use.

I am again indebted to Mr. Bertram, of Cragside, for the following return of rainfall, &c., for the year :—

MONTHS.		INCHES.
January	...	4.71.
February	...	2·01.
March	...	2·20.
April	...	1·66.
May	...	1·93.
June	...	1·87.
July	...	5·15.
August	...	2·80.
September	...	2·89.
October	...	9·55.
November	...	2·38.
December	...	3·34.
	Total	40·49.

This was therefore a very wet year; there were 204 wet days, and only 1,308 hours of sunshine. Your average fall has been about 34 inches, and bright sunshine about 1,450 hours in the year.

Your obedient Servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

ADDENDA.

Under the New Workshops Act, I have inspected those of the following, all at Thropton, viz., Messrs. Gutherson, G. Nichol, R. Proudlock, and Miss Nichol. Proudlock's was the only one over-crowded, and this is soon to be rectified. Sanitary arrangements are provided.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths One Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1891.	4891									
1893.	4890									
1894.	4850									
1895.	4830			Separated in 1896.						
1896.	4790	131	27·29	10	76·33	81	16·85	2	79	16·45
1897.	4770	112	23·0	14	125·0	56	11·69	3	53	9·0
1898.	4750	115	2·40	11	95·65	88	18·41	1	87	18·20
1899.	4730	114	23·5	10	88·0	60	12·26	1	59	12·06
1900.	4710	115	24·4	16	139·1	95	19·8	6	89	18·54
1901.	4690	96	20·47	11	114·6	67	14·30	3	64	13·66
1902.	4770	99	20·9	10	101·01	64	13·40	5	59	12·36
Average for years 1893-1902.	4800	110	22·9	12	109·0	73	15·2	3	70	14·6
1903.	4780	133	27 82	12	90·22	69	14·44	3	65	13·60

One Resident died in a public Institution outside the district, 1903.

* Rates in Columns 4, 6, 8. and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ..... 166,959.
Total Population at all ages ..... 4,689.
Number of inhabited houses ..... 1,041.
Average persons per house ..... 4·5.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT, DEATH during Year 1903 in Rothbury (Rural) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).							
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.	Rothbury—Parish (Rural).	Whittingham.	Long Framlington.	Alwinton.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwhitton.	Workhouse and Strangers.
Epidemic influenza..	6	1		1		3	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	
Diarrhœa	1	1						1							
Enteritis	3	1					2	1	2						
Puerperal Fever	1					1		1							
Erysipelas	2					1	1	2							
Phthisis	5				2	3		4	1						1
Other Tubercular Diseases	2		1	1				1				1			
Cancer, malignant disease	1					1			1						
Bronchitis	3	2				1		1	1		1				1
Pneumonia	3	1	1				1	1		1	1				
Premature Birth	2	2											2		
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	1					1						1			
Heart Diseases	13					5	8	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	
Accidents	1	1											1		1
Apoplexy	1						1		1						
Senile Decay	5						5	2	1				2		
Debility from Birth	2	2						2							
All other Causes	13	1	1			7	4	3	2	7	1				1
All Causes	65	12	3	2	2	23	23	22	10	10	6	5	8	4	4

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1903 in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality							Remv'd to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.					Rothbury (Rural Part of Parish.	Whittingham.	Long Framlington.	Alwinton.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwhitton.	Rothbury.
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & upwards.								
Small-pox	3			1	2		3							3
Erysipelas	10				9	1	8		1	1				
Scarlet Fever ..	16	2	13	1			15			1				
Puerperal fever ..	2				2		1					1		
Totals	31	2	13	2	13	1	27		1	2		1		3

ISOLATION HOSPITAL near Whitton in Rothbury (Rural Part of Parish.)